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19. A method according to claim 17 further comprising after said receiving step, the steps of:

determining if said one antenna beam is scheduled for turn off; and

modifying said parameter set to include a all user class identifiers when said one antenna beam is scheduled for turn off.

20. A method as claimed in claim 17 wherein said receiving, determining, modifying and broadcasting steps are repeated for other antenna beams of said plurality of antenna beams, and wherein said regular user class identifiers are assigned at random and said assigned class identifiers are embedded within each of said subscriber units.

21. A communication system having a plurality of nodes which are accessible through subscriber units, each subscriber unit having one assigned class identifier of a plurality of class identifiers stored therein for discriminating among users, said system comprising:

an antenna coupled to one node of said plurality, said antenna producing an antenna beam;

a multi-channel transceiver coupled to said antenna, said multi-channel transceiver capable of transmitting and receiving orthogonal channel sets in said antenna beam;

a processor coupled to said multi-channel transceiver; and

a storage medium coupled to said processor,

wherein the combination of said processor and said storage medium:

a) identify a geographic area likely to exhibit overload during a planning interval;

b) calculate a proportion of users in said geographic area to be blocked from accessing said communication system;

c) form a set of temporarily inhibited class identifiers of said plurality of class identifiers to temporarily inhibit in said geographic area based on said proportion;

d) create a parameter set which includes said set of temporarily inhibited class identifiers;

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e) identify a node of said plurality of nodes and an associated antenna beam expected to service said geographic area during said planning interval; and

f) send said parameter set to said node,

wherein said multi-channel transceiver broadcasts in said associated antenna beam on a broadcast channel, said parameter set, wherein subscriber units that have one of said temporarily inhibited class identifiers are prevented from initiating access to said communication system.

22. A communication system according to claim 21 wherein:

each node of said plurality of nodes is associated with a plurality of cells and said antenna is a phased array antenna capable of accessing many cells of said plurality simultaneously, said node additionally comprises a second antenna; and

said communication system additionally comprises:

a ground link transceiver coupled to said processor;

a ground link antenna coupled to said ground link transceiver for communicating with said second antenna; and

a control station linked to said ground link antenna and containing said processor and said storage medium.

23. An apparatus for limiting access to a communication system comprising:

multiple communication nodes wherein each node communicates with multiple subscriber units, each subscriber unit having one assigned class identifier of a plurality of class identifiers embedded therein for discriminating among users; and

an antenna on each of said communication nodes for broadcasting a parameter set comprising a list of temporarily inhibited class identifiers of said plurality of said class identifiers wherein subscriber units that have one of said temporarily inhibited class identifiers are temporarily prevented from requesting access to said communication system.

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